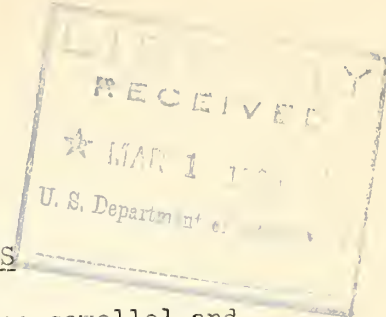


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



DIPECTIONS FOR CONTROLLING MOUNTAIN BEAVERS

The so-called mountain beaver, which is known also as sewellel and aplodontia, is native to the coast country of the Pacific Northwest only and is especially abundant on the upland slopes and newly cleared lands along Puget Sound. In these situations mountain beavers often become troublesome to the gardener and the rancher. They will cut off or trim almost any green thing that grows near their retreats, which are commonly among the logs, stumps, and brush piles of newly cleared or burned-over tracts, and are especially destructive to gardens and to certain crops growing in fields along the edge of the forest.

TRAPPING

Mountain beavers may be caught easily, either with the ordinary No. 1 steel trap or by the use of the box trap. The smaller No. 0 rat trap commonly used about the farm is not strong enough to hold a full-grown mountain beaver. Steel traps should be set in any unobstructed runway or path of the animal among the logs and stumps. When setting in the burrow, select an entrance that is used for a doorway only, and not as an alley for pushing out earth, spoiled food stores, or other trash, otherwise the trap is almost sure to be buried in rubbish by the activities of the animal. No attempt need be made to conceal or cover the trap when set in the proper place. The mountain beaver does not hesitate to climb over anything in its way.

When a box trap is used, the animals will be caught alive and uninjured. A box trap for mountain beavers should be about 9 or 10 inches wide and high, and 18 inches long. It must have a cupboard catch or similar device to hold the lid down when the trap is sprung.

The best bait for these traps is apple. Use a piece on the trigger and trail a few bits of peeling from the trap to the runway.

Pelts from mountain beaver have a limited market value. Skins should be cased and stretched over a board. No salt or other preservative should be used in curing.

POISONING

Poisoning is the most economical means of controlling mountain beavers when they are destructive over a large area. Prepare a mixture of 1 ounce of strychnine alkaloid and 1 teaspoonful of powdered saccharine. Place in a labeled shaker and dust lightly over slices or thick peelings of apple. Drop the baits at the entrance to the runway.

Caution.-- All poison containers should be labeled and kept out of the reach of irresponsible persons, children, and livestock.

